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December 3, 1970

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

From: Admiral Robinson

Subj: Cuba

The Soviet submarine tender, guided missile frigate and oiler closed to within 7-10 miles of each other at 4 a.m. EST this morning. (See Tab A). Upon reaching this position the frigate and oiler turned suddenly to the southwest and are now proceeding in a direction opposite that of the tender. (See Tab B. All Soviet naval units remain under surveillance.

Two Kipelova-based BEAR-D (reconnaissance aircraft) departed Olenegorsk, USSR late yesterday and flew over the submarine tender at 7:40 a.m. EST today, enroute to Cuba. While passing through the Iceland-Faeros Gap they were intercepted and identified by Keflavik-based U.S. fighters.

On three previous occasions pairs of this type naval aircraft have visited Havana's Jose Marti airport: The first time was from 18-21 April and was thought to be associated with the naval exercise OCEAN; Two BEARs again deployed to Cuba on 24 April and 13 May and, on each occasion the aircraft stayed only three days. They did not conduct training or fly-mission profiles that would indicate that intelligence was being collected against the continental United States.

We have no firm analysis of the naval maneuvers. One possibility is that the frigate turned to the north on December 1st in order to deflect our interests in that direction. Meanwhile, any nuclear submarine which may have been in company prior to that date could have continued on to the westward and into the Caribbean.

I will keep you informed.

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